

2011-2015 Accomplishments

Jefferson County Land and Water Resources Management Plan

Goal #1: Improve and protect soil, surface water, and groundwater quality through the implementation of the Working Lands Initiative and the Agricultural Performance Standards.

Working Lands Initiative

- Educated landowners regarding changes to the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP).
- Completed compliance checks in 4 quadrants of the county in 4 years (2011-2014), totaling 794 on-farm reviews. This system continues to be implemented. In 2015, 191 farms were monitored for compliance.
- Required FPP participants to have nutrient management plans starting with the 2013 crop year.
- All livestock performance standards were required to be met by FPP participants by December 31, 2014. 8 farms were given an extension to the deadline.
- Currently there are 668 participants and 110,435 acres enrolled in FPP.
- In 2015, there have been 578 Certificates of Compliance issued to landowners. We anticipate having the majority of the certificates issued by December 2015.

Agricultural Performance Standards

- Agriculture performance standards have been met on farms through technical assistance, cost-sharing, the Farmland Preservation Program, the Animal Waste Storage and Nutrient Management Ordinance, and the Livestock Siting provisions for expanding livestock operations. Please see Table 1 for the achievements of the cost-share program.
- As of December 2014, there are 108,800 acres of farmland that have nutrient management plans.
- Since December 2010, staff conducted 9 classes for farmers/landowners to learn how to write their own nutrient management plan. In total, 74 people have been trained. In addition 12 classes have been held for those who want/need assistance with updating their plans.
- Updated the Animal Waste Storage and Nutrient Management Ordinance in 2014 to be in line with some of the requirements contained in ATCP 51 Livestock Facility Siting.

Goal #2. Protect and enhance surface water, ground water, and wetland quality, and associated habitat areas.

Livestock Siting

- Livestock facilities have expanded according to standards that protect resources. Since 2011, staff reviewed 10 permit applications for livestock expansions and 5 amendments to the worksheets that did not include livestock expansions.

Rock River Recovery

- LWCD staff provided advice and resources to the City of Oconomowoc who is working to implement an adaptive management program to reduce phosphorus delivery to the Oconomowoc River.

Water Resource Protection through Conservation Programs

- Protected surface water resources and habitat quality through implementation of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. 26 stream buffer projects were implemented.
- 1 streambank protection project was implemented through cost-sharing. Staff provided technical assistance to numerous landowners on shoreline and streambank erosion control projects.
- 3 well closures have been implemented through cost-sharing.

Water Resource Technical Expertise

- Completed the following plans/reports: lake management plans for Hope Lake and Mud Lake; aquatic plant management plans for Rome Pond and Lower Spring Lake; various reports on pollutant sources and solutions to pollution in a watershed draining to Rock Lake; report on Rock Lake near-shore fish.
- Organized aquatic plant and algae information sessions for Rock Lake and Lake Ripley.
- LWCD staff provides data, data analysis, maps, educational resources, and technical assistance to municipalities, citizens, water resource groups, and other County Departments.
- Expertise is provided on a wide range of topics including water quality monitoring and data analysis, shoreland habitat protection, shoreland zoning, DNR waterway permits, wetland disturbance and restoration, construction site erosion control and ordinances, aquatic plant monitoring and data analysis, and groundwater protection.

Goal #3. Preserve and protect natural areas, woodlands, open space, and farmland for the benefit of Jefferson County citizens and visitors.

Jefferson County's Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

- The County's PACE program was moved to be under the management of the Jefferson County LWCD (from the Zoning Department) in 2014.
- 5 permanent easements have been issued covering 633 acres.
- Working budget of approximately \$232,000 of County funds.

Tree Seedling Program

- From 2011-2015, 40,600 trees and shrubs were sold to the public via the annual sale.
- LWCD has also distributed free trees to the public. The trees have been provided by through Living Lands and Water's Million Trees project.

Non-Metallic Mines

- Ensured that mines have reclamation plans that meet standards.
- Currently there are 24 active permits covering 500 acres in reclamation plans.
- Since 2011, approximately 100 acres have been restored/reclaimed.

Goal #4. Track the state of soil, water, and natural resources through monitoring and assessment.

Transect Survey

- Perform survey each June to document cropland conditions including residue and erosion. There are over 15 years of data in Jefferson County.
- Any concerns that have to do with Agricultural Performance Standards are identified and solutions are pursued.

Quality of Water Resources

- Performed the following surveys/monitoring: annual aquatic plant surveys on Lower Spring Lake; near-shore fish survey on Lake Ripley, Rock Lake, and Mud Lake; bulrush survey on Rock Lake; monthly (in the summer) water quality sampling on Rock Lake.
- Train, equip, and support citizen lake monitors. Currently 5 lakes have 6 citizens who perform monitoring. Data is tracked and analyzed.
- Train, equip, and support citizen stream monitors with assistance from the Rock River Coalition. There are currently 25 people stationed at 15 sites on 11 streams in the County. There are 3 more citizens that need to be placed after adequate sites are found.

Goal #5. Educate and inform the public regarding Jefferson County resources and LWCD services.

Educational Efforts

- LWCD staff attended numerous meetings of citizen organizations to update them on resource issues.
- Numerous press releases are issued each year regarding LWCD programs and projects which have resulted in articles in area newspapers and radio interviews.
- Staff also interact with the public and provide information via one-on-one conversations, e-mail, LWCD website, and direct mail.

Table 1. Jefferson County Cost-sharing Program Accomplishments.

YEAR	SEG \$ Cost Shared	BOND \$ Cost Shared	Best Management Practices Installed
2011	\$3,499.60	\$19,999.50	130 Acres Nutrient Management Plans 3 Waste Storage Closures
2012	\$24,955	\$19,819.80	891.25 Acres Nutrient Management Plans 2 Waste Storage Closures 1 Roof Runoff System 130 Feet Streambank Protection 150 Feet Livestock Fencing
2013	\$28,140	\$35,179	1,005 Acres Nutrient Management Plans 4 Waste Storage Closures 1 Well Abandonment 1 Roof Runoff System 1 Water & Sediment Control Basin
2014	\$31,199	\$20,000	1,316.25 Acres Nutrient Management Plans 2 Waste Storage Closures 2 Well Abandonments 1 Roof Runoff System 1 Clean Water Diversion (approx. 800 feet) 1 Waterway (approx. 300 feet) 1 Grade Stabilization Structure
2015	\$28,000 Allocated	\$32,500 allocated	Planned to Date: 730 Acres Nutrient Management Plans 2 Waste Storage Closures
Totals	\$87,793.60 + \$28,000 (2015) = \$115,793.60	\$94,998.30 + \$32,500 (2015) = \$127,498.30	Achieved 2011-2014: 3,342.50 Acres Nutrient Management Plans 11 Waste Storage Closures 4 Roof Runoff Systems 130 Feet Streambank Protection 150 Feet Livestock Fencing 3 Well Closures 1 Water & Sediment Control Basin 1 Clean Water Diversion 1 Waterway 1 Grade Stabilization Structure